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Office of the County Administrator
Patricia G. Bean

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2008

TO: Hassan Halabi, Community Planner II
Hillsborough County City County Planning Commission

FROM:  Peter Aluotto, Director
Planning and Growth Management Department

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST CPA 09-02
Livable Communities Element Text change - East Lake Orient Park
Community Plan

The proposed text amendment to the Livable Communities Element will add the vision statement, goals and strategies related to the adoption of the East Lake-Orient Park Community Plan and will establish the boundary for the area affected by the amendment. The community's Vision is graphically represented on the East Lake-Orient Park Concept Map which is included for adoption.

The East Lake-Orient Park Community Plan area lies in unincorporated Hillsborough County and is generally bounded by Fowler Avenue on the north, I-75 on the east, Columbus Drive and Broadway Avenue to the south, and the cities of Tampa and Temple Terrace to the west. The community contains urban, suburban, and rural residences, commercial corridors, and industrial uses. Portions of major corridors within the Plan area include I-4, I-75, US 92, and US 301. Major water features include the Hillsborough River, the Tampa By-Pass Canal, East Lake, and the Harney Flats wetlands.

Planning and Growth Management offers the following comments:

The Hillsborough County Planning & Growth Management Department, with assistance from the Planning Commission and Neighborhood Relations, worked with East Lake-Orient Park Area residents, civic leaders, business owners, and organizational representatives in assessing current characteristics, future aspirations and methods of bringing about desired change for the study area.

The Community Plan is an official policy document adopted through a Vision statement and implementing Goals and Strategies into the County's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will be recognized in future development, redevelopment, economic, environmental and other decisions affecting the East Lake-Orient Park Area. It does not create projects that must be funded by the County and does not circumvent the Board of County Commissioners' budget process. It is to be implemented by citizens through a variety of public, private and public/private partnerships.

The East Lake-Orient Park Community Plan includes a number of vastly diverse communities that provide a variety of residential lifestyles, from highly-urbanized to suburban to rural. Residents are able to choose which intensity of development is most suitable for their needs.

The East Lake-Orient Park Community is centrally located, within minutes of everything in Hillsborough County. This community has easy access to Interstate 4, Interstate 75, US 92 and US 301 Highways. It also contains amenities including the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Florida State Fairgrounds, Ford Amphitheater, Vandenberg Airport, NetPark Office Complex and Eureka Springs Park. Among its neighbors are the University of South Florida and Busch Gardens.

On June 5, 2006, a kickoff open house launched the East Lake-Orient Park Community Planning Process. Several participants at the open house volunteered to join a Working Committee to identify issues affecting the community and to develop goals, strategies and implementation methods. These goals and strategies were prioritized to develop and fine tune the Community Plan over the life of the process.

Working Committee meetings were held in the East Lake-Orient Park planning area on a monthly basis beginning in July 2006 and concluding in March 2008. This included a total of 18 monthly meetings and two open houses conducted in June 2006 and October 2007. All meetings were open to the public. Through active participation and involvement by interested area residents and business leaders, a Community Plan was developed to reflect the community's values, provide guidelines for local development and address quality of life issues in the East Lake-Orient Park Area.

cc: Lucia Garsys, Planning and Infrastructure Administrator
Paula Harvey, Division Director, Planning & Growth Management
Robert Campbell, Division Director, Planning & Growth Management
Joseph Incorvia, Manager, Planning & Growth Management
Janet Mueller, Executive Planner, Planning & Growth Management